

Specialist Teaching Credentials in Reading

The ***Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential*** authorizes the holder to serve as a reading specialist in any grade: preschool, kindergarten, grades 1 through 12, and in classes organized primarily for adults, and may be issued to any teacher who verifies the following:

- a. possession of a valid California teaching credential requiring a bachelor's or higher degree and a program of professional preparation including student teaching, with a grade of C or better;
- b. completion of a fifth year of preparation beyond the bachelor's degree; and
- c. completion of a Commission-approved program and the recommendation of a California college or university with an approved reading specialist program (see list below.)

Reading and language arts specialists who completed their professional preparation at a regionally accredited college or university outside of California must verify completion of requirements **a** and **b** above, and a full program of professional preparation in the area of reading and language arts. This generally means completion of a master's or higher degree in reading and language arts and certification as a reading and language arts specialist from the state in which the program was completed. The student teaching or field work must have been completed with a grade of C or better. Applicants who received a *pass* or *credit* or *satisfactory* are assumed to have completed their student teaching or field work at a level equivalent to, or higher than, a grade of C. If the out-of-state preparation does not meet these requirements, the applicant should contact a California college or university with a Commission-approved reading and language arts specialist program for a recommendation or advice about completing the requirements for the credential.

To renew the Specialist Teaching Credential in Reading and Language Arts, the holder must maintain a valid prerequisite credential and submit an application form and fee to the Commission. **NOTE:** In order to renew the professional clear credential the holder must complete 150 clock hours of planned and approved professional growth activities and the equivalent of full-time service for one-half school year on the professional clear credential. Please refer to the Professional Growth Manual. The Commission office recommends that applications for renewal be submitted within six months prior to the expiration date of the credential.

Institutions with Commission-Approved Reading and Language Arts Credential Programs

CPSU, San Luis Obispo
CSU Bakersfield
CSU Chico
CSU Fresno
CSU Fullerton
CSU Hayward
CSU Los Angeles
CSU Northridge
CSU Sacramento
CSU San Bernardino
CSU Stanislaus

San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Sonoma State University
UC Berkeley
UC Santa Barbara
Fresno Pacific College
Loyola Marymount University
St. Mary's College
University of LaVerne

The ***Restricted Specialist Teaching Credential in Reading*** authorizes service as a reading specialist in kindergarten and grades 1 through 6, and is available directly from the Commission only to reading specialists who held the now extinct Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificate. (On June 30, 1987, the Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act of 1965 "sunset" or ceased to be operative. Among the now inoperative provisions of the Act are the authority of the Commission to issue Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificates and the authority of holders of that certificate to serve as reading specialists.)

The requirements for initial issuance of the restricted credential are:

- a. possession of a valid California teaching credential requiring a bachelor's degree and teacher preparation, including student teaching;
- b. possession of a Miller-Unruh Reading Certificate issued prior to June 30, 1987, or passage of the National Teacher Examination for Reading Specialist (#30) and submission of an application for the Miller-Unruh Reading Certificate prior to December 1, 1987;
- c. verification from current or previous employers of three years of teaching experience, including at least one year in a reading specialist position within the last five years;
- d. official transcripts showing completion of the following college or university courses:
 - 1. a basic course in the teaching of elementary school reading,
 - 2. a basic course in the teaching of elementary school language,
 - 3. a basic course in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities,
 - 4. a course in directed clinical practice in the remediation of reading disabilities.

NOTE: these are the courses which were required for employment under the Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act of 1965. They may be taken at any regionally accredited four-year college or university. If the content is covered by fewer than four courses, or if the content is not clear from the course titles, course descriptions from the catalog or the head of the education department will be required.

- e. The application fee for initial issuance of this credential is one half of the current application fee.

The term of a clear specialist instruction credential is determined by the expiration date of the prerequisite teaching credential held, but may not exceed five calendar years.

To renew the Restricted Specialist Teaching Credential in Reading, the holder must maintain a valid prerequisite credential, and submit an application form and the full application fee to the Commission. The Commission office recommends that applications for renewal be submitted within six months prior to the expiration date of the credential.

References: Education Code §44265; Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80048 and 80048.1